



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL
MATERIALS AGENCY

FACT SHEET

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Deseret Chemical Depot

Deseret Chemical Depot: *Safely Managing Chemical Weapons*

The mission of Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) is to plan and implement the storage and destruction of chemical weapons and their secondary waste in a manner that is safe, secure, environmentally sound, and protects workers and the public. The depot, located 20 miles south of Tooele, Utah, encompasses 19,400 acres. On site is the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF), the first operating destruction facility in the continental United States, operated by EG&G Defense Materials Inc.

What is Stored at Deseret?

DCD has been storing chemical weapons since 1942. The original stockpile consisted of spray tanks, cartridges, projectiles, rockets, bombs, ton containers and mines containing the nerve agents GB and VX, and blister agents mustard and lewisite. To date, workers have safely destroyed the entire stockpile of GB and VX nerve agents, eliminating more than one million individual munitions containing more than 7,400 tons of chemical nerve agents. The Army is committed to safely storing the remaining inventory until it is destroyed at the TOCDF.

Prior to disposal operations, which began in August 1996, the depot stored 13,617 tons of chemical agent, or 44.5 percent of our nation's original stockpile of chemical agent-filled munitions. Seven other sites located across the continental United States originally stored the remainder of the stockpile.

Chemical Weapons Storage

The storage structures at DCD are earth-covered igloos designed specifically to contain the munitions and protect them from damage caused by deterioration, storms, lightning and other weather-related events.

Experienced and trained workers monitor the storage area for leaks and inspect the condition of weapons and facilities on a regular basis. These workers are also involved in regular exercises with state and county emergency management officials to test readiness for any emergency that may arise.

DCD has a trained, professional workforce dedicated to maintaining the stockpile until it can be safely destroyed.

Deseret's Quality Policy Statement

It is the policy of DCD to meet or exceed all federal, state and local regulatory requirements for the safe, secure, environmentally correct storage, handling and destruction of the chemical agents and munitions in our care. In achieving these goals, we will follow a policy of complete openness with the state and local officials to ensure we gain and maintain the trust and confidence of our most important customers — the citizens of Utah.

To demonstrate DCD's quality commitment, ISO 9002 standards and practices have been certified and are maintained.

Community Involvement

The Army recognizes the importance of public involvement in safely storing America's chemical weapons. The Army encourages open dialogue concerning DCD's mission to safely store and destroy these weapons. If you would like more information about the management of chemical weapons at DCD, contact the Public Affairs Office or the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office.

For more information,
contact the
**Tooele Chemical Stockpile
Outreach Office**
54 S. Main St.
Tooele, UT 84074
Phone: (435) 882-3773
Toll Free: (800) 471-1617
Fax: (435) 882-7904

or contact the
Public Affairs Office
(435) 833-4295
(435) 833-4575

or the
**CMA Agency
Communications Office**
(800) 488-0648